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Bangalore Mirror

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Construction has been in progress for the last 9 months on building that got notice for 100% violation of byelaws — what use are notices, if work is never stopped?

BUILT TO BREACH

Citizens urge BBMP engineers to put stop to illegal constructions

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials have failed to take any preventive measures to stop construction of buildings in violation of building byelaws. The officials, especially assistant engineers and assistant executive engineers, are more keen on issuing notices to the owners of buildings under construction in violation of building byelaws, but they do not seem to be wanting a stop to the work itself. Activists have alleged that if there are any complaints against illegal constructions, notices are sent to the owners of those buildings -- laying ground for bribery.

Take for instance a ground-plus-five-floor building under construction on Sadashiva Mudaliar Road adjacent to the primary storm water drain near Murphy Town Market. The building owner did not follow the building byelaws when they began construction. The BBMP assistant executive engineer issued a notice to Hemalatha,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Left: The building under construction adjacent to a storm water drain in Halasuru; **Right:** A building on Silver Spring Road, Munekolala

HEART'S NOT IN ARTS

In current academic year, pre-university colleges in state experience marked decrease in student enrollment in arts stream

PAGE 2

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art spectacle

Art Houz presents Memento Mori, a solo art exhibition by acclaimed artist and actor Nikil Inaya. This exhibition showcases a collection of new paintings and works on paper, paying homage to Inaya's grandmother, Shanthanayaki Balasubramanian, whose influence profoundly shaped his artistic journey. The Latin phrase Memento Mori—"remember you must die"—serves as the central theme of this exhibition. Through a series of greyscale portraits, Nikil Inaya explores the fragility of life, using visual symbolism to evoke deeper meaning. Each piece, reminiscent of a pictorial sonnet, reflects on themes of mortality, tradition, and memory. **Where: Art Houz Art Gallery, Vasanth Nagar; When: October 25-29, 10 am to 12 pm**

02 Halloween party

This Halloween, escape into a night of elegance and enchantment at Juliet, as Casa Bacardi hosts an exclusive evening of mystery and music. Nestled in the heart of the city, Juliet will be transformed into a bewitching space, where the charm of live performances and signature Bacardi cocktails come together for an unforgettable celebration. Delight in the soulful sounds of Sixth Ocean, all set against a backdrop of sophisticated Halloween décor. With its exquisite ambiance, curated cocktails, and an atmosphere brimming with allure, this soirée promises to captivate the senses and leave guests spellbound. **Where: Juliet, 1MG Mall, MG road; When: October 31, 8pm**

03 Diwali Mela

Mega Diwali Handloom Mela, organised by Maaruthi Enterprises, is an exhibition cum sale that brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India, featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms, handicrafts, Orissa tie dye, dress material, Orissa sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees and many more. The variety of Rajasthan handicrafts and handlooms includes blue paving from Uttar Pradesh, Kurja paving, Sharanpur wood carvings, and many more. **Where: Devaki Ananda Suvarna Convention Hall, Bannerghatta Road; When: Oct 21-30, 10 am to 9 pm**

Winter is coming

Mist in the early morning indicating the arrival of winter in Namma Bengaluru

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Fewer arts students enrolled in PU colleges

Academic year 2023-24 shows decline to 1,68,045 students, representing decrease of approximately 12.9% from previous year

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Over the years, there has been a consistent decline in the number of students choosing the humanities/arts stream. However, this downward trend has intensified over the past three years. Notably, in the current academic year, pre-university colleges in the state have experienced a marked decrease in student enrollment in the arts stream. Despite the arts stream providing the broadest array of combinations—offering over 35 different options—interest in arts courses seems to be diminishing when compared to the more restricted selections in commerce and science. This trend raises concerns about the future appeal of the arts in educational pathways.

Impact of COVID-19 on enrollment trends

In the academic year 2020-21, the enrollment was 2,40,740 students. The following year, 2021-22, saw a decrease of approximately 24.5% to 1,81,680 students. In 2022-23, there was a slight recovery, with enrollment rising to 1,93,418 students, marking an increase of about 6.4% from the previous year. However, this upward trend did not continue, as the latest figures for the academic year 2023-24 show a decline to 1,68,045 students, representing a decrease of approximately 12.9% from the previous year. Overall, from the peak enrollment in 2020-21 to the current figures for 2023-24, there has been a cumulative decline of about 30.2% in the Arts stream enrollment.

Private vs government colleges

The number of arts students in private pre-university colleges is considerably lower than government and aided institutions, which have a larger enrollment. In the 2023-24 academic year, 1,59,357 students enrolled in the arts stream in government colleges, down from 1,82,156 in 2022-23. Conversely, private colleges recorded 86,111 students in 2023-24, a slight decrease from 88,662 the previous year. Aided pre-university colleges saw enrollment drop from 1,08,093 in 2022-23 to 1,00,135 in 2023-24.

Growing interest in science and commerce

Students and parents show a marked preference for science and commerce courses, driven by the belief that these fields offer better job prospects. Additionally, the recent announcement that ITI and diploma courses are considered equivalent qualifications for pre-university studies has further impacted enrollment in arts courses. Experts believe that incorporating the NCERT syllabus into the arts curriculum could enhance its quality and attract more students.

Students submitting application forms to get admission to 1st year degree courses at MCC, in Bengaluru (File photo)

According to Vital A, principal of Kittel-aided PU College in Mangaluru, there is still demand for arts courses, particularly due to the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), which attracts students. However, some regions may experience a shortage of students. Sindhu B Rupesh, Director of the Department of Pre-University Education, notes that competitive exams and various job opportunities in multiple fields offer arts students numerous prospects.

There is still demand for arts courses, particularly due to the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) that attracts students

Some of the options available in the arts stream are mass communication, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, law, tourism studies, game design, social sciences, theatre and performances, fine art, hospitality and many more.

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Lake Trust pushes NGT to axe pipeline approval

Green court is urged to halt ongoing projects and restore environmental damage, stressing need for upstream solutions and passive treatment

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In June, NGT ordered BBMP and BWSSB to halt all digging and pipeline work until further notice, ordering measures to prevent sewage discharge into the lake

The Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust (YPLBCT) approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT), requesting the court to quash the permission given by the forest department to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for laying down hume pipes inside the reserve.

The Trust, in its application, also requested NGT to issue an order to BBMP and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to restore the damage done to the reserve and to stop any activity even in the buffer zone of the lake.

The Trust approached the green court after sewage mixed with storm-water entered the lake again during recent rain spells in the city.

According to the trust, BBMP and BWSSB violated NGT's order.

"Sewage has been flowing unabated because the agencies have not taken any step to stop the polluted water from entering the lake. Further, the sandbags that were put up to stop the sewage have also been removed," said the trust in its application. In early June this year, after heavy rains led to sewage flowing into YPL, BBMP placed sandbags to block the influx. However, locals say the sandbags were removed nearly two weeks ago, leading to sewage re-entering the water body.

The Trust thus requested NGT to issue orders granting compensation for causing damage to the environment. The compensation can be utilised for the protection of the biodiversity of the reserve.

Notably, in June this year, NGT had asked BBMP and BWSSB to immediately stop the work of digging up the earth and laying of pipelines including hume pipes till further order to be passed by the tribunal. In the meantime, the court had directed both agencies to take requisite remedial measures to prevent the discharge of sewage into the lake.

Trust members have also raised concerns regarding work taken up by BBMP and BWSSB without a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Department filed a report in July, stating that both agencies are in communication with the forest department and are in the process of submitting a suitable DPR.

> **"The activities during the laying of pipeline, if allowed, will destroy flora ecosystem created between walking path and lake** – Trust member

"While BWSSB submitted a report to NGT in August, there was no mention of DPR in the report. They started digging inside a conservation reserve without a DPR in place. The activities during the laying of the pipeline, if allowed, will destroy the flora ecosystem created between the walking path and the edge of the lake," said a member of the Trust. Trust members say the proposal by the government agencies to lay down a hume pipeline in the reserve will not be useful unless there is a channel constructed upstream. However, the upstream area is beyond the jurisdiction of both agencies.

"YPL rejuvenation can be done by designing and constructing a diversion drain on the south and southeast sides of the lake, along with a passive treatment plant. The current action of BBMP is not only detrimental to the long term sustainability but also in violation of directives of High Court of Karnataka," noted the application filed by the Trust.

AI cameras on BBMP vehicles to identify urban issues

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is preparing to rely on artificial intelligence (AI) cameras for real-time identification and resolution of various urban challenges.

AI cameras for BBMP vehicles

BBMP plans to install AI cameras on vehicles used by executive engineers, assistant executive engineers, and enforcement vehicles. A tender has been issued to procure 250 cameras. These vehicles will capture visuals from their routes, which will be analysed to detect issues such as potholes, garbage, damaged road dividers, unauthorised banners and posters, and other problems. The

AI cameras will also help identify cracks in road surfaces, broken curbstones, unapproved flex banners, and damaged infrastructure.

The BBMP will also utilise footage from the 6,000 cameras installed by the police under the Safe City Project. The captured footage will be sent to BBMP's Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for analysis. Once issues are identified, the data will be sent to the relevant authorities for resolution.

Sources said that installing and maintaining AI cameras, along with analysing footage from the police's 6,000 cameras, will cost approximately Rs.1.50 crore annually.

165 junctions to have AI cameras

The city police have implemented AI-controlled traffic signals, leading to a remarkable reduction in waiting times at various junctions across the city. For instance, the KR Corridor has experienced an impressive 20% decrease in waiting time, while the Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS) has reported an 18% increase in efficiency. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Security) MN Anucheth said, "One of the standout aspects of the ATCS is its central monitoring and control capability. This feature allows for real-time oversight of traffic signals, enabling quicker responses to changing traffic conditions and enhancing overall management efficiency." He said that maintenance management is also efficiently handled through a Telegram ticketing bot, which streamlines the process of real-time issue reporting, tracking, and swift resolution of any system concerns. The traffic police are closely coordinating with the BBMP to ensure a smooth execution. "This initiative will complement existing and upcoming infrastructure developments, such as tunnels, flyovers, and road widening projects. While these infrastructure improvements help separate through traffic, adaptive signalling optimises surface-level traffic flow," Anucheth added.

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Asphalt pending

Kaval Byrasandra

The road at 1st Cross in MM Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, dug up over a month ago for drainage work, remains unpaved and is awaiting re-asphalting.

Pothole woes

Mysore Bank Circle

The road in front of Kaveri Bhawan and the Civil Court, near Mysore Bank Circle, is riddled with potholes.

Drain fixed

MS Nagar

Following reports in the columns, the open drain in Ward 59, MS Nagar, East Zone, has been repaired.

Code con: Unknown caller asking for OTP? Hang up

Scammers are now exploiting call-forwarding to trick victims. The fraud starts with a call from someone posing as a bank official, service provider, or tech support, claiming that the victim's phone will be blocked or experience issues unless they dial a specific code. Trusting the request, the victim dials the code, unknowingly activating call forwarding on their phone. This redirects all incoming calls, including important OTPs (One-Time Passwords), to the scammers. Using these OTPs, the criminals can access bank accounts, perform unauthorised transactions, and even gain entry to apps like WhatsApp, further exploiting stolen data.

Police are issuing cautionary advisories, urging people to be wary of unknown callers requesting codes or personal details. They stress that legitimate companies will never ask for such sensitive information over the phone. To protect oneself, it is essential to avoid dialling codes from unknown sources, be cautious when sharing personal information, and contact service providers directly if experiencing network issues. Telecom providers will never request that you dial suspicious codes like *401# or 21. Regularly checking and adjusting your call forwarding settings, and reporting any suspicious activity to the cyber-crime helpline, are also crucial steps in safeguarding against such scams. A senior cybercrime officer highlighted the increase in complaints related to call forwarding fraud, underscoring the need for vigilance as scammers continue to devise new methods to bypass security systems.

CRIME FILES

'Don't fall prey to job scammers'

The Protector of Emigrants (PoE) has advised caution against unlicensed job agents offering fake employment, often leading people to scam companies in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. An official noted that while South India has 200 licensed agents, there are over 2,000 unauthorised ones, many targeting victims through social media.

"Anybody who takes up a job in Cambodia, Laos, or Myanmar should do so only through authorised agents approved by the Ministry of External Affairs of India," he added. Agents in Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, and India associated with these scamster firms are recruiting Indian nationals by conducting a simple interview and typing test. They offer high salaries, hotel bookings return air tickets, and visa facilitation.

Victims are also illegally taken across the border into Laos from Thailand and are held captive to work under harsh and restrictive conditions. At times, they are taken hostage by criminal syndicates indulging in illegal activities. "We are creating awareness about scams and fake agents. It may be noted that a tourist visa is to be used only for tourism," added the official. Sources from the PoE said that victims should come forward to lodge complaints and help identify the fake agents. "Their identities will remain confidential," official said.

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Poles at KR Cirlce are precariously poised

BBMP renovated area at Rs 2.25 crore, but forgot to remove old rusty solar light poles

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has installed LED lights and renovated Krishna Rajendra Circle aka KR Circle, but not quite completely. It seems like the engineers have overlooked the old, rusty light poles, which are posing a significant risk for pedestrians.

The BBMP has renovated KR Circle at an estimated cost of Rs 2.25 crore and Basavaraj Bommai, the chief minister of that time, inaugurated the renovated fountain and other amenities at the KR Circle in November 2021. KR Circle was renovated and developed as part of the 30 important junctions in the city.

The authorities have installed LED lights but have forgotten to remove old and rusted solar light poles that were installed many years ago. Most of the solar light poles have no batteries or panels. The BBMP engineers have installed LED bulbs on these rusted poles without bothering about the durability of these poles, which have become dangerous for pedestrians.

"If the rusted poles are any indication, it seems the BBMP authorities are waiting for a disaster to happen. It is quite surprising to come across rusted light poles at an important place like KR Circle in the city. I appeal to the BBMP authorities to fix this problem as early as possible to avoid these poles falling on hapless and unwary pedestrians," said Pratap N, a pedestrian.

BBMP engineers and police, including Lokayukta Inspector General of Police, inspected the KR Circle underpass when an unfortunate incident took place on May 21, 2023. A car-borne woman drowned at the underpass after the vehicle was submerged in swirling water. The BBMP launched the safety audit of underpasses in the city and marked the danger level at the KR Circle underpass to prevent the recurrence of drowning. However, no official has bothered to replace the rusted solar light poles that existed on the parapet wall of the underpass. "How come these rusted solar light poles were excluded from the safety audit launched by the BBMP? Is it not the responsibility of the BBMP engineers to send a proposal to replace the rusted solar light poles?" asks Sunder S, a pedestrian.

The pedestrians want the BBMP authorities not only to ensure cleanliness on the footpath but also to remove the rusted solar light poles to avoid mishaps in the future. "The BBMP spent a lot of money on the installation of LED lights on the other side of the underpass but did nothing to replace the rusted solar light poles, which have become an eyesore and are very dangerous," opined Mohan P, a pedestrian.

Will the BBMP authorities replace the rusted solar light poles? Pedestrians have to wait and watch.

One of the rusted solar light poles at KR Circle Underpass; (Inset) One of the solar light poles missing at KR Circle Underpass

> **How come these rusted solar light poles were excluded from the safety audit launched by the BBMP? Is it not the responsibility of the BBMP engineers?**
>
> –Sunder S, pedestrian

Hoax bomb threat on flight from B'luru

Clarifying the recent hoax bomb threat on an Ayodhya-bound flight from Bengaluru, Akasa Airline reported that 15 of its flights received security alerts, prompting a swift response from the airline's Emergency Response Team.

An Akasa Air spokesperson on Sunday stated, "The Akasa Air Emergency Response Team was immediately activated, initiating standard operating procedures, including informing regulatory authorities and monitoring the situation in real-time."

The spokesperson emphasised that captains and crew members of the affected flights adhered to emergency protocols in collaboration with local authorities.

"The Airport Services teams at all impacted airports coordinated with local authorities to ensure efficient handling of the situation, including the safe deplaning of passengers and providing assistance and refreshments as required," they added.

The airline reassured passengers that their safety remains a top priority.

Ayodhya's Maharishi Valmiki International Airport was under heightened security on Sunday following a bomb threat on a flight arriving from Bengaluru.

Upon landing, authorities conducted a comprehensive inspection of the plane and its occupants. While the incident was concerning, it was managed effectively, with passengers remaining safe and cooperative throughout the checks.

Maharishi Valmiki Airport Director Vinod Kumar confirmed that all checks have been completed and no suspicious items were found.

"There was a bomb threat call concerning the Akasa flight from Bengaluru to Ayodhya. The checks have been conducted successfully, and it appears the call was a hoax," said Kumar. "Around 1.30 pm, we received information about a bomb being planted on the flight, prompting an immediate landing. We received a similar hoax call on Wednesday as well. All passengers are safe now," he added.

–ANI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Family affair

Politician CP Yogeshwar's estranged daughter had expressed support to Congress party when her father was with the Bharatiya Janata Party. However, with Yogeshwar joining Congress, Nisha made a scathing attack against Congress in a social media post. Clarifying on this, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's office issued a communique saying, "Nisha Yogeshwar had met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at Kumara Krupa guest house before the Lok Sabha elections. During the meeting, she had raised certain issues related to her father. The DyCM not only made it clear to her that he would not like to intervene in the father-daughter fight but also advised her to sort out the issue within the family. The allegations cast by Nisha Yogeshwar on social media platforms are hence completely baseless and are far from the truth."

Not a blast

There was talk about a electronic ticketing machine (ETM) blast in a KSRTC bus recently. A KSRTC official said, "Reports have circulated today regarding an ETM machine blast at the Chikkamagaluru unit. However, it has been clarified that there was no blast. The machine melted due to prolonged exposure to heat from the bus bonnet, which had become extremely hot. The bus driver, who also serves as the conductor, was operating the bus on the Chikkamagaluru-Sringeri-Bengaluru-Chikkamagaluru route. During the journey, the driver-conductor placed the ETM machine on the bus bonnet. Since the machine was covered in a plastic pouch, it couldn't withstand the heat from the bonnet and began to melt, sticking to the surface. As a result, the heat caused the machine to melt. The driver noticed this only after detecting a burning smell. It is important to note that no blast occurred. The conductor has been instructed not to place the machine on a hot bonnet in the future."

'Rain water can't be reversed'

The ruling Congress party is currently facing a barrage of criticism over rain management in Bengaluru. In response to questions from journalists, Home Minister G Parameshwara addressed the backlash from the BJP regarding the damage caused by the recent rain. He snapped that it was impossible to send rainwater back into the sky. "When it rains, the water must flow on the ground." He characterised the recent downpour as unexpected, asking rhetorically whether anyone had witnessed such heavy rainfall in October before.

High drama

Last week, Ballari Jail became the stage for a dramatic scene as over a 100 fans eagerly awaited the release of their favourite actor Darshan on bail in the Chitradurga Renukaswamy murder case. Chanting slogans like "D Boss... D Boss," the crowd's excitement grew, prompting police to intervene and disperse the gathering. When Darshan finally emerged from his high-security cell, the cheers intensified, but the festive atmosphere quickly soured. A mild lathi charge was deployed to maintain order as fans pressed closer to the prison. Ultimately, the mood turned somber when news broke that Darshan's bail request had been denied, leaving fans disheartened as they slowly made their way home, their hopes dashed.

–Sridhar Vivan

Brewers' association concerned over K'taka's beer tax hike plan

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The Brewers Association of India (BAI), the association of India's largest beer-makers, has requested the Karnataka Government to not go ahead with proposed amendments to reclassification of beer and restructuring of taxes, saying these would work against both the Government and the industry. BAI's submission is in response to a draft notification issued by the state government seeking stakeholders opinion on matters related to regulation of beer. In the draft notification the Government has sought to mandate declaration of malt and sugar content on the label of beer products, increase taxes on the strong beer, and raise the minimum price of beer in the state.

The draft notification introduces a new definition of beer which, amongst others, limits the addition of sugar to 25% in beer and makes it mandatory for the beer products to display the content of malt and sugar on the label.

Brewers in the state have objected to these proposals.

Vinod Giri, the Director general of the BAI said, "Beer has no sugar in it. There is a definition of beer set by the FSSAI which is followed by all states and we don't see the need to change them by one state. Having said that,

our larger concern is regarding putting it up on the label. Beer labels are already cluttered with so much statutory information and warnings. Adding more information, especially when not relevant, will make them more cluttered and unappealing."

The draft notification also proposes to increase the excise duty on strong beer by 100% to Rs 20 per bulk litre, increases the minimum billing price for beer in the state to Rs 300 per case and increases Additional Excise Duty (AED) to 195% of the billing price or Rs 130 per bulk litre whichever is higher.

On the proposed hike in minimum beer price of beer, Giri said: "If implemented, it would be the third increase in tax on beer in the last 15 months. It almost seems the direction of the policy is to make beer prices uncompetitive compared to hard liquor so as to shift consumers from a milder form of alcohol like beer to hard spirit like IMFL"

BAI has objected to these, saying that these proposals will hit the beer industry in the state very hard. BAI, in its letter to the Government has said that such increase may lead to drop in sales of beer in the state and encourage cross border unlawful imports, eventually leading to fall in tax collection of the Government.

The letter states: "Karnataka is recognised for its strong beer culture. It has 11 breweries with thousands of crores of investment, providing employment to 7500 people. All this has been made possible by supportive and progressive policies by the Government. However, we are concerned that some proposed changes could hinder the growth of the industry, diminish the state's investment appeal, or drive future investments elsewhere."

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More time to file IT returns

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extended the deadline for corporates to file income tax returns for the Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25. The Finance Ministry said corporates have until November 15 to submit their returns, an extension from the original deadline of October 31. The extension applies to taxpayers under sub-Section (1) of Section 139 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, it said in a media release.

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RBI's adroit move to rein in cost

The RBI's move on Friday to inject funds into the banking system despite the prevalence of a headline liquidity surplus reflects an adroit strategy by the central bank to ensure that recent overseas outflows from local capital markets and festival-related cash withdrawals do not drive up banks' cost of funds, analysts said. This comes 2 weeks after RBI shifted its stance of monetary policy to neutral.

Gold or diamond: Where should you invest this Diwali?

It is considered auspicious to buy gold around Diwali. One of the widely preferred combinations is gold and diamonds.

ET Wealth (online) spoke to jewellers and experts to know whether you should buy gold or diamond jewellery for investment purposes. Here is what they have to say:

Surendra Mehta, National Secretary of the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association: It is better to buy gold jewellery or gold coins and bars this Diwali instead of diamond jewellery. Unlike gold, which can be hallmarked by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), there is always a question about the clarity of diamonds. There is no certification about a diamond's clarity from a government agency like BIS. The government has declared gold as an asset class while diamond still remains a consumable item as it is difficult to get the correct resale value through buyback options.

Further, diamond prices are currently falling, and no one knows where the bottom is. From an investment perspective, gold scores over diamonds as one can easily take a gold loan, but banks do not give loans against diamonds. There is now also competition from lab-grown diamonds.

Aditya Modak, CFO & COO of P N Gadgil and Sons: Gold bullion might be a better

option from an investment perspective. Even in the case of jewellery, gold jewellery will offer better returns than diamond jewellery. When buying diamond jewellery, you invest approximately 50% in the stone and 50% in gold. Historical data has shown a consistent increase in gold prices over the past few decades, which shows that gold has shown promising results as an investment.

However, diamond jewellery provides a unique and secure balance of investment risks. The potential fluctuations in the prices of gold and diamonds work in tandem to stabilise the investment, providing a sense of reassurance about the stability of your investment.

Suvankar Sen, Managing Director and CEO of Senco Gold & Diamonds: For consumers seeking a simple, liquid and culturally significant investment this Diwali, gold remains a strong option. With global uncertainties and ongoing conflicts, gold prices are expected to rise, making it a wise choice for long-term value. However, diamonds present an attractive opportunity as well, with current prices lower than usual. This makes diamonds a potentially rewarding investment, especially for those looking to diversify their portfolio.

As we approach Diwali, consumers often face the choice between buying gold or diamond jewellery, both of which hold unique value. With the wedding season around the corner, wedding jewellery is in high demand. Given the current surge in gold prices, many consumers are opting for lightweight, everyday diamond jewellery, which offers both elegance and practicality. While high gold prices may impact the volume of gold purchases, the overall value of consumer spending remains significant.

For traditional functions and wedding festivities, gold continues to be the preferred choice due to its timeless appeal and cultural significance. However, for everyday wear and social gatherings, diamonds offer a modern, trendy look, making them an attractive option for those seeking both style and long-term value.

Vikas Singh, Managing Director & CEO of MMTC-PAMP: While diamonds fascinate with their brilliance, gold has been standing unmatched as an investment choice for people for ages. Investing in gold offers several advantages compared to diamonds. Gold is highly liquid, with a well-established global market that makes it easy to buy and sell. Its value has been historically recognised as a store of wealth, and it offers long-term stability, especially in volatile markets. Gold is also considered a safe haven during economic downturns, while diamonds are influenced by trends and subjective characteristics like cut and clarity. Additionally, gold is more fungible and cannot be synthetically produced, ensuring its rarity and consistent value over time. In contrast, the emergence of lab-produced diamonds has led to significant price reductions and lower demand in the diamond market, further challenging their investment potential.

It can be concluded that if you have only investment in mind then going for gold alone could be a better choice however diamond has its own appeal which many can prefer due to its utility value as an ornament.

By Preeti Motiani, ET Online

BMTC wins National Award of Excellence

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has been honoured with the prestigious Award of Excellence in Urban Transport in the category of "City with Best Record of Public Involvement in Transport," officials said on Sunday.

According to officials, this award was presented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

The award ceremony was held on October 27, 2024, at the Mahatma Gandhi Mandir Convention Center in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Ramachandran R, Managing Director of BMTC, received the award from Manohar Lal, the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs.

This prestigious recognition by the Government of India acknowledges BMTC's commitment to ensuring citizen safety and promoting an environment-friendly transport system. The award is a testament to BMTC's efforts to engage the public and implement innovative solutions in urban transport.

BMTC stood out among other urban transport organisations and municipal corporations across the country in the competitive selection process held earlier in October 2024.

The award recognises BMTC's innovative implementation of the HSR Layout intra-loop bus service. This type of intra-layout loop service, the first of its kind in India, has garnered national attention and appreciation. **ANI**

NO FLOOD RELIEF HAS COME WORKERS' WAY

With several working class areas still flooded, trade union urges govt to provide ration, temporary shelter to its residents

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The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) has written to authorities to provide relief, ration to the residents in Surabhi Layout, and all such settlements in Bengaluru where workers have suffered due to the rains. They have written to DK Shivakumar, Minister for Bengaluru City Development, BBMP officials, and other officers.

"While we have seen that attention has been paid to large apartments and localities, unfortunately working class areas have been neglected," their statement noted. AICCTU explained that around 62 families are residing in tarpaulin sheds and have been residing in the city for more than 15 years. While the men work as construction workers, women work as construction workers and domestic workers. There are around 40 children under the age of 10 years. They are living under extremely vulnerable conditions, without any basic amenities, including draining, electricity etc.

"With the rains on October 21, the entire place was left completely flooded and inundated. Thereafter, they were required to shift to an under construction building nearby to protect themselves. Due to the flooding they have lost all their belongings including ration, clothes and left with nothing but the clothes on their back. Thereafter, the BBMP came once and provided food for one meal on Tuesday. However, thereafter there has been no visit from any BBMP or government official. Due to their conditions, they have also not been able to go to work for the last four days," AICCTU noted.

"The BBMP came once and provided food for one meal on Tuesday. However, thereafter there has been no visit from any BBMP or government official

They said that a portion of the area remains flooded and they have been constrained to live in extremely unsafe conditions. "The stagnant water has resulted in snakes coming into their homes and has also become a breeding home for mosquitoes. It is absolutely necessary that the government take immediate steps to ensure the provision of ration, clothing, bedding, tarpaulin for their shed and take steps to drain out the water that has stagnated in their homes.

It is also necessary that immediate steps are taken to compensate them for the losses suffered by them. It is necessary that these steps are taken to protect their basic right to life with dignity protected under the Constitution," they said.

AICCTU has demanded BBMP to take immediate steps to ensure the provision of ration, clothing, bedding to the residents and provide them with dignified temporary shelter by ensuring the provision of tarpaulin for their shed. They have also urged immediate steps to be taken to drain out the water that has stagnated in their homes.

"Ensure the payment of compensation for the losses suffered by them. Take immediate steps in other parts of Bengaluru where other working class households have been rendered homeless by the rains. Take steps to ensure the provision of dignified homes to them," they said.

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Teetering on the edge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the building owner, for taking up the construction of the building in 100% violation of building byelaws. The notice was issued on January 5, but no action was taken to stop the construction work which has been in progress for the last nine months.

When contacted, Manickam, the husband of Hemalatha, said that he had a plan to construct the building. "I have an old plan that was given by the BBMP a few years ago. It is true that the BBMP assistant executive engineer issued a notice to my wife stating that the building is being constructed in violation of building byelaws. I will send a copy of the building plan to you," said Manickam. However, we are yet to receive any such plan and Manickam has not been available for comment since.

Expressing concern over the violations, BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru, said that he has already complained to the BBMP but they did not take measures either to register a case or stop the construction work. "The authorities must stop the construction of the building that is being constructed illegally without any delay to avoid loss of lives and damage to the adjacent buildings," said Chandran.

BBMP assistant executive engineer Savitri, who assumed office recently, said that she has already sent her subordinates to the spot. "I have directed the contractor and building owner to stop the construction work. I will issue one more notice to the building owner and take suitable action as per the law," said the assistant executive engineer.

A similar construction of a multi-storied building is in progress on Silver Spring Road, Munekolala, near Marathahalli. Residents on Silver Spring Road said the building owner has added a few more floors on the pretext of remodeling the structure. "The building owner claims to have the support of local politicians. The BBMP engineers have to prevent construction of buildings in violation of byelaws," said a resident pleading anonymity.

However, BBMP assistant executive engineer Ramesh said that he has already issued a notice to the building owner to stop the construction. "I will issue a notice for demolition of floors constructed in violation of building byelaws," the engineer said.

Citizens want the BBMP engineers to put an end to illegal constructions at their respective areas, especially since the recent building collapse brought to the fore the dangers of not doing so.

Job postings up 20% in festive season

More than 2.16 lakh job postings were reported in this festive season in the country -- a 20 per cent increase compared to 1.8 lakh job postings last year, according to a report on Sunday.

The festive season saw a significant rise in hiring across key sectors like logistics, e-commerce, retail and hospitality. Additionally, the rapid expansion of the quick commerce industry contributed to this hiring momentum, said apna.co, a leading jobs and professional networking platform.

Among the sectors, logistics and operations experienced the highest growth, with a 70 per cent increase in job postings. Retail and e-commerce followed with a 30 per cent rise, while the restaurant and hospitality sector grew by 25 per cent.

This hiring trend is not limited to major metro cities and tier 2 and 3 cities are also experiencing a significant rise in job opportunities.

While tier-1 cities like Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad have seen a 20 per cent increase in job postings, the demand in tier 2 and tier 3 cities is even more notable. **IANS**

Use public Wi-Fi with care

Expert points to dangers of using network open to all as rogues can find ways to get your private data

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Cyber experts warn that public Wi-Fi networks are easy targets for attackers, and though the number of reported incidents may seem relatively low, the real danger lies in the fact that many users are unaware their data has been compromised. Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer (CCIO), suggests, "To ensure your data security, turn off your Wi-Fi while using public transport and rely on your mobile data instead."

Cybercriminals exploit public Wi-Fi in a variety of insidious ways. One common tactic is the Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attack, where hackers silently position themselves between a user's device and the server they're trying to connect to. This allows them to intercept sensitive information like passwords, credit card details, and login credentials, often without the user even knowing. Sometimes, they even manipulate the data being sent. For instance, sensitive information can be exposed when making online payments in shops using public Wi-Fi. Another instance is that, when a family member requests an Aadhaar card, and shares it via WhatsApp while connected to unsecured public Wi-Fi may lead to data leaks, as hackers can easily intercept such communications.

Another dangerous ploy is the creation of Rogue Hotspots or Rogue Access Point, which is a wireless access point that has been installed on a secure network without explicit authorisation from a local network administrator. For instance, a traveller might innocently connect to a network labelled "Free Airport Wi-Fi," unaware that it's a trap. Once connected, the user's data becomes an open target for hackers.

Four weeks ago, a major cybersecurity breach targeted public Wi-Fi services at 19 major railway stations across Britain, including London Euston, Manchester Piccadilly, Birmingham New Street, and Glasgow Central. The attack disrupted internet access for thousands of travellers and commuters.

Session hijacking is a serious threat on public Wi-Fi, where attackers take control of an active session between a user and a website, gaining access to personal accounts and enabling fraudulent transactions. Public Wi-Fi also facilitates phishing attacks, where fake websites steal users' credentials, and malware distribution, where hackers infect networks with malicious software, compromising devices and data. Even downloading movies on public Wi-Fi can release hidden viruses, putting users at risk. Additionally, eavesdropping is a major concern, as hackers can intercept unencrypted communications, stealing sensitive information without users realising it.

Bengaluru has also been a hotspot for cybercrimes. In the first six months of 2024, according to official data, Bengalureans lost a staggering ₹845 crore to cybercriminals. Of the 9,260 cases reported, credit and debit card frauds were among the most rampant, accounting for ₹41.53 crore.

Investigators uncovered a disturbing trend: many victims had accessed public Wi-Fi networks before their sensitive data was compromised. Many victims had accessed unsecured Wi-Fi networks at hotels and lounges before making transactions, leaving them exposed to data theft.

Staying safe

"As Cybersecurity Awareness Month reminds us, convenience comes at a price. Public Wi-Fi may seem tempting, but users must stay cautious," said Chetan. He advised to prioritise security with antivirus software for both laptops and mobiles, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN), and access https sites. "Avoid accessing and sharing sensitive information while traveling, disable file sharing and turn off mobile hotspot when not in use. Enable two-factor authentication for an added layer of protection, do not click on suspicious links and stay vigilant," he said.

Woman accuses estranged husband of blackmail

The Byadarahalli police on Wednesday registered a complaint of a woman who alleged that her husband who she had separated from, blackmailed and mentally tortured her with the private videos she made with her male friend.

The 26-year-old woman has filed a case against the private firm employee. According to the complaint, she was married to the man in 2016 and after she was tortured physically and mentally, she moved out and started living alone.

During this period, she developed a relationship with her male friend and the duo recorded their private videos and stored them in their mobile phones.

The husband, who got to know about her relationship, allegedly accessed these videos and shared them with her family and friends to defame her. Upon confrontation, he threatened her that he would put up those videos on social media sites.

The police have now summoned the man to appear for questioning.

Woman's body found on railway track

An unidentified woman's body was found on the railway tracks near Kodigehalli on Sunday.

According to the Yeshwantpur railway police, the woman is around 25 years old. Passers-by who noticed the body, alerted the police and the body was shifted and a spot inspection was conducted.

Police suspect railway injuries as if she has fallen from the moving train. An unnatural death case has been registered.

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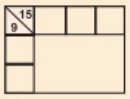
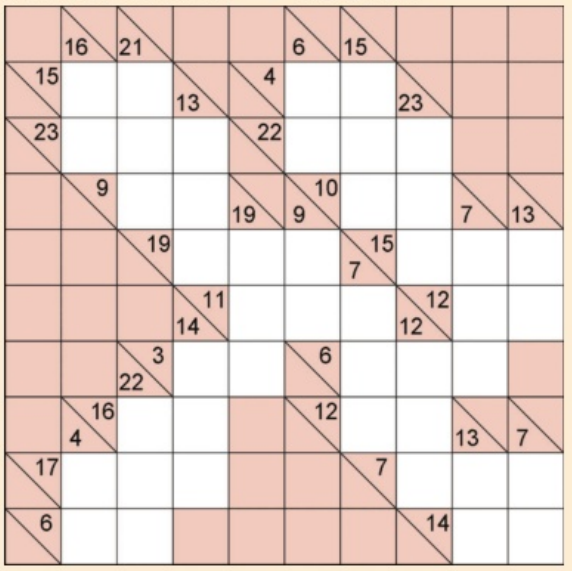
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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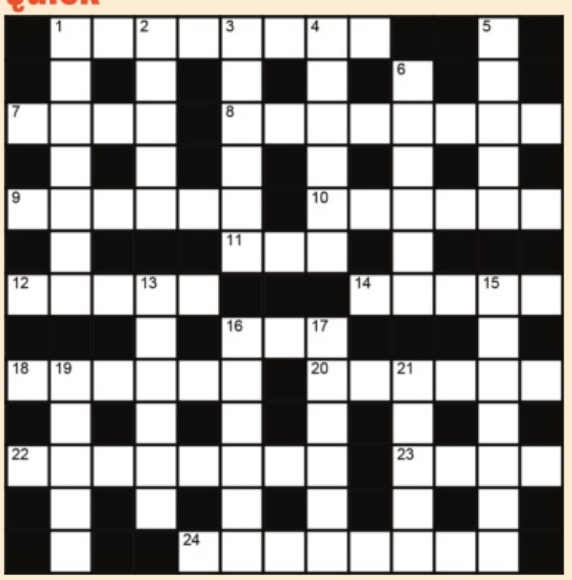


ACROSS

1 Distinguish (3,5)
7 To let fall (4)
8 Six hundred minutes to you? (3,5)
9 Develop, come into being (6)
10 Hayfield (6)
11 Deli bread (3)
12 Sanctify (5)
14 Pilfer or steal (5)
16 ___ a ___ : in connection with (same word) ? (3)
18 Port in SW Russia (6)
20 Leaning (6)
22 Liveliness (8)
23 Agreement (4)
24 Benevolence (8)

DOWN

1 Wither (7)
2 'Fiddler on the Roof' actor (5)
3 J K Rowling's Harry _____ (6)
4 Change the title (6)
5 Unusual item (5)
6 Mogadishu native (6)
13 Petty ruler (6)
15 Forces or bullies (7)
16 Former Karnataka Governor who went on to become India's President (1,1,4)
17 Remained (6)
19 Oily fruit (5)
21 Pass in error (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G

NAWQ AI G UAWWAFTNK ZGCQ. SLT FGD YAD AK LDNS OS VQK-GADADZ SLTV OAVKJVAZJK KL OQ G RQVILD.

Linemaro

Did you just come out of the oven? You're hot!

Mindchow

A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd

Joke of the day

From a Church bulletin: Miss Charlese Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation

Loop

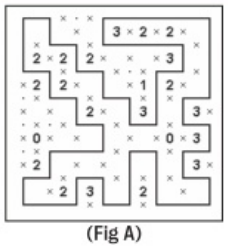
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

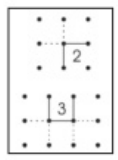
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

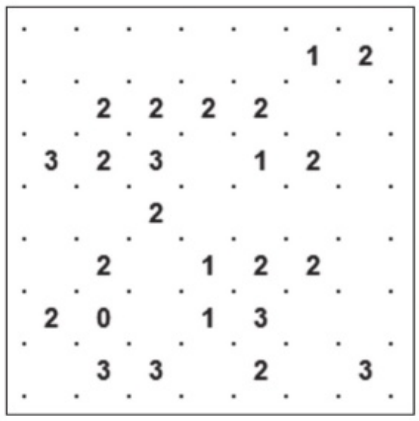
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



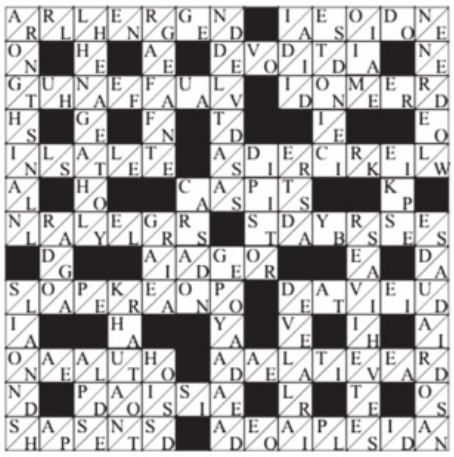
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



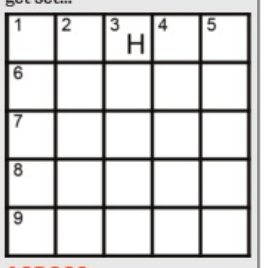
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

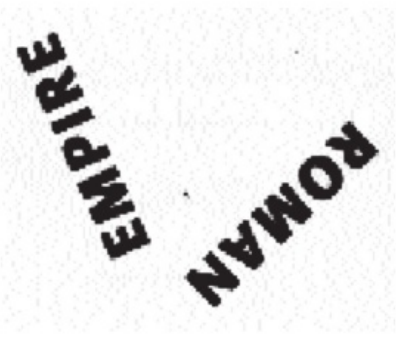
1 Chase; 6 Up Coe;
7 Only N; 8 At pec;
9 Us his

DOWN

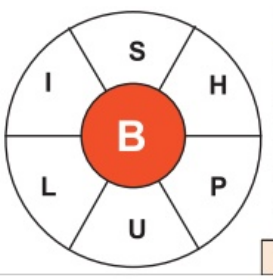
1 Canes; 2 Yo cup;
3 Hauls; 4 Cop he;
5 Stein

Mensapuzzle

Decipher this rebus:



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

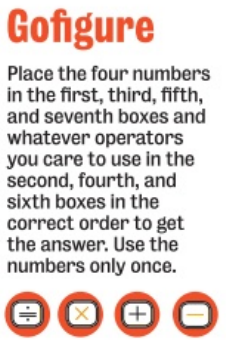
SudokuChallenge

	6		2			5		4
	7							
		9		5	6		1	2
			3	1	5			7
				8				
9			6	2	4			
4	3		9	6		8		
							4	
5		6			2		9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 15
5 6 7 7

Medium = 36
3 5 7 8

Hard = 9
2 4 5 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

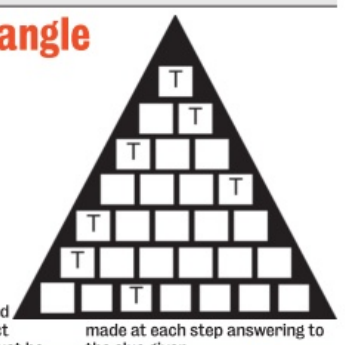
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Railing is longer. 3. Light is smaller. 4. Boy's hair is different. 5. Roof is smaller. 6. Window is different.

Riddler

A puppy is one, but a dog is not. A kitten is one, but a cat is not. A cookie is one, but a cracker is not. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Terabyte
2 tu Brute ...
3 Perfect score
4 Landlord's due
5 Fashion
6 Affectionate
7 Went in

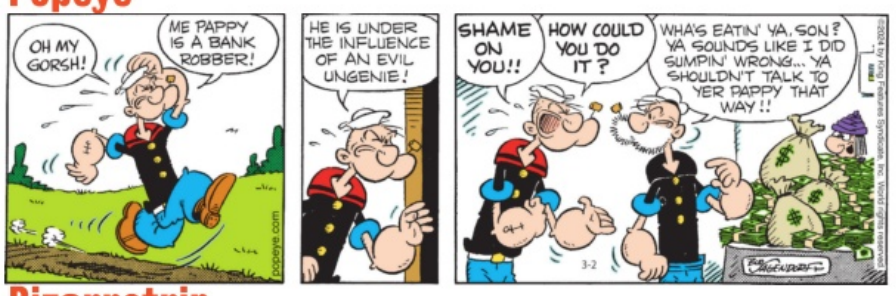


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

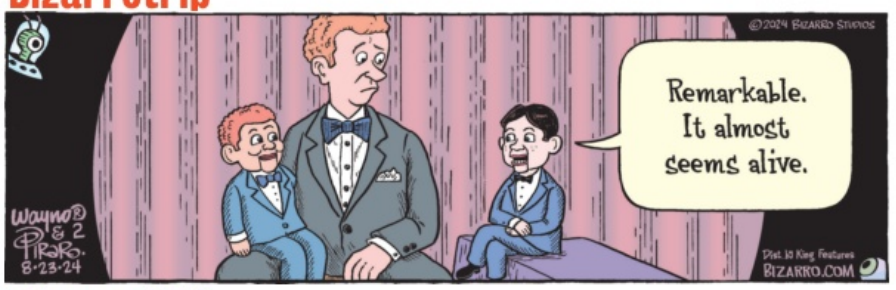
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


OH MY GORSH!
ME PAPPY IS A BANK ROBBER!
HE IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN EVIL UNGENIE!
SHAME ON YOU!!
HOW COULD YOU DO IT ?
WHA'S EATIN' YA, SON? YA SOUNDS LIKE I DID SUMPIN' WRONG... YA SHOULDN'T TALK TO YER PAPPY THAT WAY!!
3-2
popeye.com

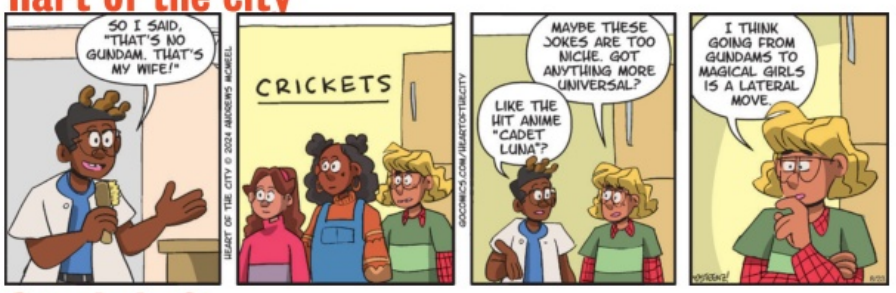
Bizarrotrip



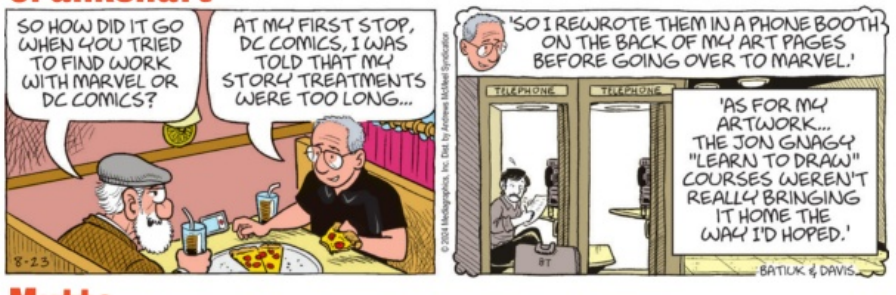
Diamond Lil

I WENT TO THAT NEW PLACE FOR LUNCH
IT'S CALLED THE CHURCH OF BACON CAFE
WHAT DID YOU GET?
CONFIRMED
©2024 creators.com 8/23
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


SO I SAID, "THAT'S NO GUNDAM. THAT'S MY WIFE!"
CRICKETS
MAYBE THESE JOKES ARE TOO NICHE. GOT ANYTHING MORE UNIVERSAL?
LIKE THE HIT ANIME "CADET LUNA"?
I THINK GOING FROM GUNDAMS TO MAGICAL GIRLS IS A LATERAL MOVE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


SO HOW DID IT GO WHEN YOU TRIED TO FIND WORK WITH MARVEL OR DC COMICS?
AT MY FIRST STOP, DC COMICS, I WAS TOLD THAT MY STORY TREATMENTS WERE TOO LONG...
'SO I REWROTE THEM IN A PHONE BOOTH ON THE BACK OF MY ART PAGES BEFORE GOING OVER TO MARVEL.'
TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE
'AS FOR MY ARTWORK... THE JON GNAGY "LEARN TO DRAW" COURSES WEREN'T REALLY BRINGING IT HOME THE WAY I'D HOPED.'
BATIUK & DAVIS
8-23

Mutts

SHTINKY, AFTER YOU BUILD YOUR ARK AND ROUND UP THE ANIMALS-WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THEM?
SOMEPLACE SAFE, MR. MOOCH, SOMEPLACE WHERE THEY'LL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY, SOMEPLACE WHERE LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED!
WHERE'S THAT!?!
I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO PAUL McCARTNEY'S HOUSE.
8-23
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel pleased as your losses may turn into profits. Your seniors might appreciate your work, and there could be changes in your position or responsibilities, leading to a promotion. Your opponents and hidden enemies are now under control. Singles and love birds may make important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may bring happiness. Last week's challenges are now behind you. With these blessings, you may see the rewards of your hard work. With the support of your subordinates, you may be able to start working on previously postponed tasks. There could be gains in your business, boosting your finances.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull and experience some health issues. It is advised to postpone any investments in the business, and it's best not to start new ventures. You might face losses, and your gains could turn into losses.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may receive business orders that could be profitable shortly. You might implement new ideas at work, and new partnerships may take shape. However, being busy at work may lead to mental fatigue, affecting your domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you will perform well at your job, with cooperation from your colleagues. Your performance will be good, and you may complete postponed projects on time. You might lend money for investment purposes. Job seekers may find new opportunities, and there could be positive news for those dealing with long-standing health issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, situations have improved, and people around you are more responsive. However, you are advised not to view life as a burden. Try to endure and sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties with easy gains, but blessings from elders could help you get through. Your confusion about setting goals may now be resolved.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, tasks may remain incomplete, and mood swings might make you a bit restless. Your patience will be tested, and minor mistakes may create confusion in your work. Love birds may feel uncertain about their feelings. High expectations could affect your emotional attachment to your spouse. It is advised to take care of your parents, and students may struggle with concentration.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will be pleased as you manage to balance your earnings and expenses, boosting your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans, and your siblings and subordinates will be particularly supportive. You may plan to visit elders or a religious place.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your energy levels will be high, making you happy and optimistic. You will work hard to achieve your desires and may plan outings with friends and family to share your joy. Students may receive good news related to their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the day might not start well, and you may feel nervous or unhappy until the afternoon. However, as the day progresses, your mood will improve, and you will feel more confident. Be cautious in making financial, professional, and academic decisions. Sometimes, self-respect issues with your spouse may arise, so be patient to avoid turning happy moments into negative ones. Love birds might plan short trips together.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your tendency to overspend could affect your savings. Be careful when expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front. Avoid lending money, and postpone making important decisions about real estate and other assets. Try to avoid neglecting your responsibilities.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel a sense of peace. You might plan to invest some capital in your business, which could increase liquidity. Your earnings may improve your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony in your family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match, and love birds may decide to marry. Students will benefit from their good karma.

S Avaneesh, Bengaluru

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= -120[45-(15-10×(-33))]
= -120[45-(15+330)]
= -120[45-15-330]
= -120[45-345]
= -120×-300
= 36000

BULL'S EYE
blip, bluish, blush, bush, PUBLISH

STRIKE OUT

S	P	E	N	D		D	E	A	L	S	I	N		
D		P		S	E		L		E		O			
N	E	A	T	H		D	E	L	I	V	E	R		
A		A		A		E		I		I				
S	O	P	R	A	N	O		D	A	V	I	D		
	D		I	A	G	O		E		A				
L	A	V	E	R	S		S	A	B	R	E	S		
L	H			A	S	P	S			K				
I	S	T	L	E		A	I	R	C	R	E	W		
H		G		F		T		I		O				
N	E	A	V	I	T	A	N							
T	U	N	E	F	U	L		D	O	M	E	D		

FAST FIVE

A	C	H	E	S
	C	O	U	P	E
N		Y	L	O	N
E	P	A	C	T
S	U	S	H	I

RIDDLER
A word with double letters.

QUICK

			K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S		E		
												V		
V	I	T	A	L	I	T	Y		P	A	C	T		
L		R		G		A		A		R				
R	O	S	T	O	V		T	I	L	T	E	D		
		A		V	I	S				O				
B	L	E	S	S			P	I	N	C	H			
		E		R	Y	E				L				
E	V	O	L	V	E		M	E	A	D	O	W		
I		O		T		A		M		I				
D	R	O	P		T	E	N	H	O	U	R	S		
H		O		E		S				U				
S	E	T	A	P	A	R	T			C				

SUDOKU

5	8	6	4	7	2	1	9	3
7	9	1	5	3	8	2	4	6
4	3	2	9	6	1	8	7	5
9	1	7	6	2	4	3	5	8
6	5	3	7	8	9	4	2	1
8	2	4	3	1	5	9	6	7
3	4	9	8	5	6	7	1	2
2	7	5	1	4	3	6	8	9
1	6	8	2	9	7	5	3	4

MENSA PUZZLE
The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire

QUOTE UNCODE
Life is a difficult game. You can win it only by retaining your birthright to be a person.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 – 5 + 7 + 7 = 15
Medium
3 x 8 + 5 + 7 = 36
Hard
4 – 2 x 2 + 5 = 9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, Et, Ten, Rent, Trend, Tender, Entered.

LOOP

KAKURO

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